

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3936

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, UNWFC

SUBJECT: VENUE OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MARCH 1976 MEETING

1. AT MEETING NOV 12 OF FIFTH COMMITTEE REPS OF WEO COUNTRIES, ITALIAN REP MARIO MAJOLI SAID THAT EC-9 HAD ADOPTED A COMMON POSITION OF DISAGREEMENT WITH DECISION TO MOVE MAR 8-12, 1976 MEETING OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FROM ROME TO GENEVA. HE SAID THERE WERE GOOD TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL REASONS FOR THIS. THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN FAO AND WFC IN ROME SHOULD NOT BE INTERRUPTED. ALSO GENEVA WOULD BE MORE COSTLY. ARGUMENT THAT INTERPRETERS ARE MORE READILY AVAILABLE IN GENEVA HAS LITTLE MERIT, MAJOLI SAID.

2. UK REP STUART AND FRG REP SCHMIDT AGREED. STUART SAID UK VIEW IS THAT SINCE ROME IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF WFC ITS MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD THERE, IN ACCORD WITH THE PRINCIPLE STRESSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES IN ITS RECENT REPORT THAT BODIES SHOULD NORMALLY MEET AT THEIR ESTABLISHED HEAD-QUARTERS.

3. COMMENT - WHEN CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES ATTACHED TO COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES REPORT COMES TO FIFTH COMMITTEE FOR
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APPROVAL LATER THIS MONTH, AN EC-9 EFFORT TO CHALLENGE

VENUE FOR WFC MEETING CAN BE EXPECTED, AND ONE ARGUMENT WILL
BE THAT COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES ACQUIESCENCE IN GENEVA IS
INCONSISTENT WITH ITS OWN PRINCIPLES.

4. DECISION TO HOLD MARCH SESSION IN GENEVA FOLLOWED WISHES
OF WFC EXEC DIR HANNAH WHO THOUGHT THAT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE
IN GENEVA WOULD BE MORE FAVORABLE THAN ROME. MISSION HAS NO
STRONG VIEWS BUT WOULD RECOMMEND TOUCHING BASE WITH HANNAH
BEFORE MAKING A FINAL
DECISION ON US POSITION. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION IS PURPOSE OF
COUNCIL TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR WFP EFFORTS WHICH MAY WELL ARGUE
FOR MEETING OUTSIDE OF ROME.
BENNETT

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